

OPINION 1077

REFUSAL OF REQUEST TO USE THE PLENARY POWERS TO
SUPPRESS THE GENERIC NAME *CYNOCEPHALUS* BODDAERT, 1768
(MAMMALIA)

RULING.- (1) The application for the use of the plenary powers for the suppression of the generic name *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768, is hereby refused.

(2) The generic name *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768 (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Lemur volans* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2043.

(3) The specific name *volans* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Lemur volans* (specific name of type-species of *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2599.

(4) The generic name *Galeopithecus* Pallas, 1783, (a junior objective synonym of *Cynocephalus* Boddaert, 1768) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2079.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 1792

An application for the validation of the generic name *Galeopithecus* Pallas, 1783, was first received from Dr. Leigh van Valen (*University of Chicago*), Dr. P.M. Butler (*Royal Holloway College*), Drs M.C. McKenna and F.S. Szalay (*American Museum of Natural History*) and Drs B. Patterson and A.S. Romer (*Museum of Comparative Zoology*) on 20 February 1967. It was sent to the printer on 3 March 1967 and published on 30 June 1967 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 24: 190-191. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in this case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the prescribed serials (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 31: 97) and to two specialist serials. The application was supported by Dr. W.D.L. Ride (then of *Western Australian Museum*) and Dr. Everett Lindsay (*University of Arizona*). Objections were received from Dr. P. Hershkovitz (*Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago*) (*Bull.* vol. 25: 202), Professor J. Knox Jones (*University of Kansas*), Dr. Th. Haltenorth (*Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich*), Dr. H.J. Kuhn (*Senckenbergische Anatomie, Frankfurt a.M.*), Professor J.L. Harrison (*University of Singapore*), and the Committee on Nomenclature of the American Society of Mammalogists (*Bull.* vol. 25: 203).

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 15 May 1969 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper 1969(27) either for or against the proposals set out on p. 191 of vol. 24 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

At the close of the Voting Period on 15 August 1969 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes - ten (10), received in the following order: Lemche, Mayr, Bonnet, Vokes, Obruchev, Uchida, do Amaral, Ride, Mertens, Binder

Negative Votes - twelve (12) received in the following order: China, Holthuis, Brinck, Eisenmann, Sabrosky, Simpson, Jaczewski, Melville, Forest, Starobogatov, Alvarado, Kraus

Voting Papers not returned: Munroe, Tortonese. Dr. G. Owen Evans returned a blank voting paper.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Sabrosky: First I believe the attitude of mammalogists should be given great weight in judging names of mammals. Secondly, I am unimpressed by the applicants' argument that the flagrant and intentional disregard of Opinion 90 by some of them now justifies its reversal. Thirdly, should not Hershkovitz's proposal have been noted as the alternative to be adopted if the application by van Valen and others is rejected? [The Secretariat took the view that the proposals expressed by Dr. Hershkovitz were the inevitable result of a rejection of the original proposals. R.V.M.]

Simpson: I still believe, as in my 1945 publication cited in this application, that the 1925 effective *minority* decision of the Commission was discreditable. It has nevertheless gone unchanged for 44 years [in 1969] and there is no real doubt that reversing it now would lead to present instability.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY

I am indebted to Dr. Karl Koopman (*American Museum of Natural History, New York*) for drawing my attention to the fact that this application seemed to have lapsed. On examining the file, I could find no reason why the issue of the Opinion should have been delayed and consequently prepared it as promptly as possible.

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the Ruling given in this Opinion:

Cynocephalus Boddaert, 1768, *Dierkundig Mengelwerk*, vol. 2: 8

Galeopithecus Pallas, 1783, *Acta Acad. Sci. imp. Petropolitanae* vol. 4 (for 1780): 208

volans, *Lemur*, Linnaeus, 1758, *syst. Nat. ed. 10*, vol. 1: 30

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (69)27 were cast as set out above, that the proposal for the use of the plenary powers contained in that Voting Paper has been duly rejected, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1077.

R.V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

17 August 1976